

Postal Regulatory Commission

Washington, D.C. 20268-0001

NOTICE OF FILING UNDER 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)

TO THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE:

Please take notice that the Commission received two petitions for review of the Postal Service's determination to close the Mount Union post office located in Mount Union, Iowa. The first petition for review received November 29, 2011, was filed by Ben B. Johnson. The second petition for review received November 29, 2011, was filed by Amanda Mullin. The earliest postmark date is November 17, 2011.

This notice is advisory only and is being furnished so that the Postal Service may begin assembling the administrative record in advance of any formal appeal proceedings held upon the alleged (closing/consolidation) for transmittal pursuant to 39 CFR § 3001.113(a) (requiring the filing of the record within 15 days of the filing with the Commission of a petition for review).



Ruth Ann Abrams
Acting Secretary

Date: December 13, 2011

Attachment

Received

NOV 28 2011

Office of PAGR

A 2012-84

P.O. Box 26

301 S. Spearman

Mount Union, IA 52644

November 16, 2011 NOV 29 P 12: 21

RECEIVED

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Ave NW Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268-0001

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

To Whom it may concern:

A determination has been made by the U.S. Postal Service to close our local post office here in Mount Union, Iowa. I am served by the Mount Union post office and am filing this appeal.

The U.S. Postal Service needs to make some big changes to keep running, as I heard on the news that they have lost five billion dollars this last year. If the company that I work for had done that, I would have been laid off within a month and they would have made some drastic changes, and I realize that you folks need to make some changes. I empathize with you and therefore have some suggestions to help your bottom line.

The world has changed a lot in the last generation, and the correspondence that use to be carried by the postal service is now mostly carried via telephone or the internet, so your volume of first class letters has declined significantly. Although we are a small community, many of your patrons frequent the post office here in Mount Union, and the convenience of being able to buy stamps or mail parcels is greatly appreciated. Many folks here in town use Ebay and receive packages via the post office. Having a package sit in a hot outdoor mailbox during the summer could damage merchandise. If we lose a shipment of vitamins due to the heat, for the next shipment, we will specify UPS or Fedex, and you will lose that business. I know the argument is that having the mail sent to a mailbox will serve the purpose same as the local post office, but if it really was as good as having a local office, it would have been set up that way from the beginning. Also, the estimated annual savings of \$40,000 was based on the wages of a postmaster. We haven't had a postmaster since 2007, we have only had fill in people who make less money. Your savings will be less than \$40,000, and you probably will lose more business if the post office closes.

What to do? You really do need to save a lot of money to keep going, and we do need a postal service. Here is my suggestion: reduce days of delivery. Four days a week, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday would be sufficient. Possibly three days a week would be good, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. I think the four day work week might fly; people who now work five days a week would work four, but keep their health insurance just like before. Employees will bring a little less home each payday, but get a bigger refund on their taxes. If someone takes a vacation, you will pay less overtime to cover the schedule, as someone will want to pick up the fifth day for straight wages. The bills that come now on Wednesday can wait til Thursday, as can my shipment of vitamins from Swanson Vitamins. Yes, it will take an act of congress, but I'll write to my congressman and senators on your behalf, and I bet a lot of other people would too.

Thank you for your consideration.


Ben B. Johnson

Received

A2012-84

November 17, 2011

NOV 23 2011

RECEIVED

To Whom It May Concern,

Office of PACS

2011 NOV 29 P 12: 20

My name is Amanda Mullin and I am a resident of Mount Union, Iowa. It was recently decided to close our city's post office and I am writing to appeal this decision.

I realize and understand why Mount Union's office is an easy target, since only approximately 130 people reside inside the city limits, and maybe not many more in the rural areas benefit from our post office. I also understand that our service won't be interrupted, but frankly I don't care that it won't. Because of your decision, I and other people who use the post office for more than just our personal mail will be affected!

I am the secretary of the United Methodist Church and use a bulk-mailing permit to mail our newsletters. Now, I am going to have to drive 7 miles one way to mail these letters. We (the church) could make the decision to quit distributing our monthly letter to keep costs down, but why should we have to do that? We should be able to go to our local office in Mount Union, Iowa and use the post office in our town.

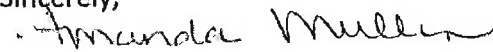
I know you don't care at all about how this will hurt the town because you have plans to close down so many and why should we be any different. Maybe we shouldn't, but I despise the idea of losing it and I have to fight the appeal the decision and let you know how I feel about it.

The "town meeting" in our city's community building felt like a HUGH slap in the face, because we all knew that it was a technicality and it didn't really seem to matter what we said, I'm sure you had already made up your minds long before that night. And furthermore, it was discussed on whether to install cluster boxes in town or have each resident have their own mailbox at their home. Personally, I feel that if you are going to close my post office, my mail should at least be delivered to my house.

I don't know if this letter will ever see the light of day, or even make any difference what so ever, but I am grateful for the opportunity to write it. I hope and pray that you will reconsider closing, however, I'm sure the decision you make will have the citizens "best interest at heart." I would also like to take this opportunity to say that if you would take the time to pray and meditate on what direction God wants this country to take, maybe we wouldn't be in the current economic situation we are in and have to make hard decisions like this.

My final thoughts are these; it is extremely upsetting to know that our post office in Mount Union, Iowa is closing and I pray that one way or another, our post office will be spared and remain open. That is my ultimate hope.

Sincerely,


Amanda Mullin